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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/605,213	06/28/2000	Norbert Rahn	P00,1268	6581

7590

04/25/2002

Schiff, Hardin & Waite
6600 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

EXAMINER

MANTIS MERCADER, ELENI M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3737

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/605,213

Applicant(s)

RAHN ET AL.

Examiner

Eleni Mantis Mercader

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. In claim 1, lines 2-3, the use of the terms "an imaging unit" is unclear whether it is a unit in addition to "an image signal acquisition unit." If two different units exist, Examiner suggests inserting an --and-- prior to "an imaging unit."

5. The "navigation system" introduced in claim 2 is an essential element of the invention and therefore should have been claimed in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claims 1-10 and claim 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Paltiel⁷⁰²⁹.

Regarding claims 1, 2 and 14, Paltiel⁷⁰²⁹ teaches all the features of the instant invention including: a system, a medical workstation, and a method comprising:

an image acquisition unit for acquiring image signals of a first subject an imaging unit for producing an image of the first subject from the image signals (see Figure 1, element 28, col. 6, lines 20-28);

a navigation system including a position acquisition system for determining a position of said image signal acquisition unit (see Figure 1, element 20; and col. 6, lines 29-40) and for determining a position of a second subject relative to said image acquisition unit (see Figure 1, element 32; and col. 6, lines 40-57);

a mixing unit for mixing a representation of said second subject into said image of said first subject (col. 7, lines 42-67 and col. 8, lines 1-63; also see Figures 7-10).

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Regarding claim 3, Paltiel'029 teaches a navigation system including identifiers, selected from the group consisting of detectable marks and position sensors, which are respectively attachable to said image signal acquisition unit and to said second subject and which are identifiable as to position by said position acquisition unit (see Figures 1 and 4; in Figure 4, elements 60 and 62; also see col. 6, lines 66-67 and col. 7, lines 1-18).

Regarding claim 4, Paltiel'029 teaches the image signal acquisition unit which comprises an ultrasound probe (Figure 1, element 28; col. 6, lines 23-27).

Regarding claim 5, Paltiel'029 teaches the image signal acquisition unit comprising an X-ray source and an X-ray receiver (see Figure 2, elements 42 and 40; and col. 6, lines 58-65).

Regarding claim 6, Paltiel'029 teaches the imaging unit producing a 3D image of said first subject from said image signals (col. 8, lines 32-63).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Paltiel'029 teaches the imaging unit producing a 2D image of said first subject from said image signals (col. 8, lines 20-31) and wherein the mixing unit mixes an indication of a distance of the second subject from the image plane into the 2D image (see Figures 7-10; in Figure 8 see screen 106, indicating needle 92 on ultrasound image 108; also see col. 8, lines 11-32).

Regarding claim 9, wherein the position acquisition unit simultaneously identifies the position of said image signal acquisition unit and the position of the second subject (see Figures 4 and 7; and col. 6, lines 66-67 and col. 7, lines 1-67).

Regarding claim 10, Paltiel'029 teaches an acceptance device for the first subject and wherein the position acquisition device identifies a position of the acceptance device simultaneously with identifying the position of the image signal acquisition unit and the position

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of the second subject (the verification computer unit constitutes such a device for verifying needle insertion based on positions of the subject based on the ultrasound image and the target; see col. 9, lines 46-63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Paltiel'029.

Paltiel'029 teaches all the features of the instant invention as indicated in claims 1-10 above, except for the use of a support device for supporting the patient.

It is inherent or in the alternative it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time that the invention was made that the patient is supported during an interventional procedure, as this is the common practice of skilled artisans.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

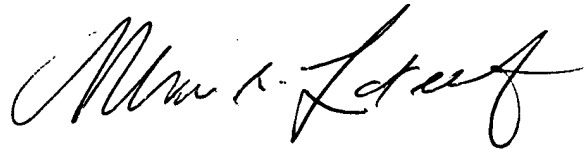
Barrick'594 teaches a fluoroscopic image guided orthopaedic surgery system with intraoperative registration.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eleni Mantis Mercader whose telephone number is 703 308-0899. The examiner can normally be reached on Wed. - Wed., 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marvin Lateef can be reached on 703 308-7635. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 308-0758 for regular communications and 703 308-0758 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0858.



Marvin M. Lateef
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700



EMM
April 9, 2002

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.